

# Environmental Careers: The Road to the Future

In recent years, the American public has made it clear that it expects nothing less than dramatic environmental improvements. Citizens are more concerned and knowledgeable about environmental issues than at any time in the past. They are also more concerned about the economy, their jobs, and the well-being of their families.

At the same time, environmental protection programs have grown by leaps and bounds, demanding an ever-increasing work force. Experience has shown us that environmental protection and economic growth can co-exist. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for example, estimates that the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments alone will result in a \$20 billion annual increase in national revenues for the environmental technology industry by the year 2000. New environmental regulations have created growth in the environmental technology industry and new opportunities for environmental careers.

Most environmental careers are built on a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university. However, graduates of community, technical and junior colleges will also find rewarding positions -- similar to those obtained by graduates with a bachelor's degree in engineering -- that combine the hands-on work of a technician with the skills of an engineer. Candidates for environmental positions will benefit from additional skills. A knowledge of computer systems and software is essential. Potential employees should also have technical writing experience, public speaking ability, and an understanding of negotiation and conflict resolution. Coursework and/or experience in planning can also be a plus.

In state and federal government, the majority of positions are filled through an "eligibles list" that is comprised of individuals who have taken an examination for that particular job classification. In Maryland, you can receive information about state jobs by contacting the State Department of Personnel, Recruitment Division, at 300 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. (410)225-4847, 4848, 4850. For more information on MDE careers, please contact MDE's personnel office at (410) 537-3100.

For more information on environmental jobs, you may wish to consult the following:

**Environmental Career Resource Guide**  
<http://eco.org/career/jobresourceguide.pdf>

**Environmental Career Opportunities**  
<http://www.ecojobs.com/>

**Outdoor Action Guide to Outdoor/Environmental Careers**  
<http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/jobs/careeroe.html>



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